

[22 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) the other steps proposed to improve the contents as well as boost e-commerce?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Content available through internet websites are largely provided by the initiative of the individual organizations. Government of India is supporting projects in areas like multimedia, multilingual software, particularly covering Indian languages. This is expected to improve the contents. To boost e-commerce, several projects are being supported by Ministry of Information Technology for awareness building, improving skills and technical competence in the area of e-commerce. One of the projects, aims to set up a Centre of Excellence for e-commerce at CMC, Hyderabad.

Information Technology Act for regulatory and legal framework to boost e-commerce has been passed by the Parliament and assented to by the Hon'ble President of India. The draft rule for implementation of this Act has been published on the web of Ministry of Information Technology for comments of the public.

Tax on Agricultural Income

***407. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eleventh Finance Commission has proposed that tax be imposed on agricultural income in the country;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision in this matter; and

(d) if not, by when a decision is likely to be arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Taxes on Agricultural income are a State Subject, vide Entry 46 in List II (State List) in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.